

President Rabbani and Prime Minister Hekmatyar both responded positively to Pakistan's request to declare Jalalabad as a 'safe haven'.

The anti-Rabbani forces led by Prime Minister Hekmatyar agreed to observe a four-day unconditional cease-fire in Kabul to enable the UN to visit Kabul.

Balochistan National Movement urged the Government of Pakistan to send all Afghan refugees back home as their presence in Balochistan was against the interests of the Balochs.

A delegation of the Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan after ending their visit to Pakistan, went to Iran on 3 February.

On 6 February, the UN Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, had talks with the Governor of Nangarhar in Jalalabad City to seek a peaceful settlement for the Afghan crisis.

OIC Secretary General, Dr. Hamid Al Ghabid, who arrived in Islamabad on a two-day official visit on 9 February, appealed to all warring Afghan factions to cease hostilities during the holy month of 'Ramazan'.

On 16 February, the Afghan Foreign Minister, Hidayat Amin Arsala, called on the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in Islamabad and discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Prime Minister did not agree to a proposal by Pakistan's Foreign Minister seeking safe passage to food convoys to be dispatched for needy people in the Afghan capital.

On 18 February, Commander Jalaluddin Haqani, who was trying to mediate between the Afghan warring factions, had another round of discussions with the Afghan Prime Minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, in Jalalabad.

On 20 February, a special Commission of the Afghan cabinet announced a package of proposals regarding installation of a new Government with a new President at the completion of the tenure of President Rabbani in June next.

The United Nations Human Rights Commission strongly criticized the international community for its attitude towards the fighting in Afghanistan.

Following the Pakistan decision to close down its mission in Kabul, 14 Pakistani diplomats and embassy staff reached Peshawar on 25 February.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, flew to Kabul on 23 February and held talks with President Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Masood, Prof. Sayyaf and Abdul Ali Mazari.

On 28 February, the Afghan Minister for Housing, Engineer Ahmad Shah, called on NWFP Governor in Peshawar and discussed the existing relations between the two countries.

The Afghan Government offered Pakistan the old British Embassy building in Kabul for its embassy.

MARCH

The Government of Pakistan decided that only the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) would be allowed to transport food from Pakistan to Afghanistan and that only SAFRON will issue food permits. Such operations will be conducted only at the Government level of the two countries.

A New Zealander cameraman, who was held in captivity for three months because he was filming Tajik Refugees in northern Badakhshan and Kunduz Provinces, was released by the Afghan Government.

On 2 March, about 50 Afghans staged a protest demonstration in front of the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, USA chanting slogans against Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Some 200 Afghan commanders, religious leaders, tribal elders, intellectuals and diplomats called upon the UN to intervene in the conflict and help restore peace in Afghanistan.

The Afghan President accused Uzbekistan on 22 March of interfering in Afghan affairs by helping anti-government forces.

APRIL

Mehmood Mestiri, head of a five-member UN fact-finding mission, arrived to Islamabad on 27 March. In late March, after meeting with Pakistani and Afghan officials in Islamabad, he proceeded to Sarshahi camp in Jalalabad. In early April he met the Afghan President and Prime Minister in Kabul. His meeting with the former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood was canceled due to the illness of Sotirios Mousouris. Mehmood Mestiri also met with Gen. Dostum, Commander Ismail Khan of Herat, and Provincial Authorities of Kandahar Province. The UN team also met representatives of various Afghan groups including intellectuals, Ulema and women in different parts of Pakistan as well as in Afghanistan to obtain their views and seek a practical solution to the current Afghan conflict. According to a UN spokesman, hundreds of Afghans interviewed by the UN team demanded a new interim government in Kabul as the only solution to stop the ongoing fighting. The mission urged Afghans to begin their journey towards peace by ending hostilities and arrange for an immediate cease-fire.

On 7 April, people in Kabul held a demonstration in front of the UN office to demand reopening of all educational institutions in the country.

On 10 April, a delegation of "Ittehad-i-Ulama" including representatives from Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan left Peshawar for Kabul to meet the Afghan President and Prime Minister in search of peace in Kabul. The delegation was headed by Maulavi Younis Khalis, leader of his own faction of Hezb-i-Islami.

On 12 April, hundreds of Afghan refugees staged a protest demonstration in front of UNHCR office in Peshawar demanding a permanent cease-fire and restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

On 15 April, the UN issued a fresh appeal for peace in Afghanistan and said that continuation of fighting in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan remained an issue of utmost concern to the entire International community.

On 19 April, Charles MacFadden, ACBAR Executive Director, met the Acting Governor of NWFP to discuss issues related to permits for commodities, travel of staff across the Pakistan/Afghanistan border and the movement of vehicles.

A peace mission led by Commander Maulavi Jalaluddin Haqqani claimed in late April to have agreed a 27-point agreement that called for an immediate cease-fire in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan as well as the removal of all armed people from the Afghan capital within 15 days.

MAY

Afghanistan's national airline, Ariana, was reportedly planned to use Jalalabad's airport to resume its regular international flights, which were halted for four months due to the factional fighting in Kabul.

Mehmood Mestiri, reached Geneva at the end of a six weeks tour of Afghanistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Mestiri planned to visit Islamabad and Kabul again in June.

Mehmood Mestiri called on former Afghan King, Zahir Shah, in Rome on 15 May and discussed ways and means for resolving the Afghan crisis .

On 29 May, former Afghan President, Dr. Najibullah, was allowed for the first time in three years, since taking refuge at the UN office in Kabul, to meet some of his friends and relatives, who wanted to offer Fateha for the death of his mother.

JUNE

In early June, President Rabbani said that he would not resign in order to avoid leaving a power vacuum. However, he indicated his willingness to transfer the power to an elected Loya Jirga.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister arrived in Kabul on 4 June. Among others he visited Rabbani, Hekmatyar, Mazari, Masood and officials of Hezb-i-Wahdat.

Mehmood Mestiri returned to New York to report to the UN Secretary General on the outcome of his visit to Afghanistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan and Russia. He expected to visit Uzbekistan next time around.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, on 10 June, in a news conference in Jalalabad, warned that more bloodshed would occur if Rabbani insisted on staying in power; he rejected the idea of convening a Shura and Loya Jirga; and he criticized UN efforts and accused Mestiri of attempting to hold a selected Shura and impose King Zahir Shah. He would be willing to support and cooperate in the UN peace efforts on the formation of an interim government and the holding election.

Iran was apparently compelling a large number of Afghan refugees to return to Afghanistan. Official sources said, around one million refugees have already returned since April 1992.

The Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister flew to Jalalabad secretly and handed over a letter from his President to the Afghan Prime Minister requesting him to stop the infiltration of Afghan guerrillas into Azerbaijan. Around 2,000 Afghans are reportedly fighting alongside the Azeris.

JULY

Leader of Ittehad-i- Islami Afghanistan, Professor Sayyaf, supported the extension in tenure of President Rabbani for another six months.

The OIC Secretary General arrived in Islamabad on 2 July, and met three Afghan leaders on 3 July, as part of his peace efforts. On 11 July, he went to Kabul and had a closed-door session with the Afghan President. On 13 July, he met the representatives of the Shura-i- Hamahangi (anti-Rabbani coalition).

The US State Department welcomed the efforts of the United Nations special envoy for Afghanistan, Mehmood Mestiri, and expressed its full satisfaction over his achievements.

An Afghan woman sprinkled oil on her clothes and set herself on fire in front of the UNHCR office in New Delhi for an unknown reason.

A press release of the Shura-i-Hamahangi accused the Indian Government of extending military and economic assistance to the Afghan Government. It said that India had sent pilots and aircraft spare parts to Kabul and was maintaining a team of technicians to overhaul the military planes. However, the allegation was rejected by the Government.

The informal meeting of Herat Conference started on 18 July. The participants constituted two special committees - military and political - with an aim to find a solution to the Afghan crisis.

Mehmood Mestiri arrived in Islamabad on 22 July, to resume peace efforts to end the ongoing crisis. He met some Afghan leaders there on 24 July, and was soon to pay a visit to Kabul.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said that he no longer termed himself Prime Minister of Afghanistan after the expiry of the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords and, hence, resigned.

Formation of a national army of 100,000 personnel was approved by the Islamic Council in Herat. The conference also resolved that a Loya Jirga be convened to solve the Afghanistan problem and called upon the UN and OIC to help in this regard.

President Rabbani declared his readiness to step down as a new formula emerged on 27 July, by Herat Council. Under the plan, a 65 member panel was set up, setting a deadline of October 23, to convene a national assembly to elect a successor to Professor Rabbani and to nominate an interim President to replace him before the ballot. Some Afghan groups rejected the Herat conference and termed its decisions as one-sided.

The UN Special Mission held in-depth consultations with the leaders of the Afghan neutral parties (Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, and Ayatullah Asif Mohsini) on 29 July, and appreciated their efforts in the peace process.

A spokesman of Shura-i- Hamahangi said on 31 July, that though they had a number of reservations regarding the report of the special UN delegation for Afghanistan, they were still keen to assist the UN in finding a solution to the Afghan problem.

AUGUST

The spokesman of the UN Special Mission said on 3 August, that the Mission paid a two-day visit to Uzbekistan and held wide-ranging talks with the Uzbek leadership on the Afghan issue. Describing the visit as very constructive and useful, he said that Uzbekistan assured full support to the UN Special Mission and expressed readiness to extend all assistance required.

The special envoy of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, Masood Khalili, said on 8 August, that his country requests the UN and OIC to find ways to monitor the Afghan border to stop logistic and military assistance entering into Afghanistan. However, Pakistan rejected the proposal, saying if any weapons were coming from Pakistan, the Afghans could detect them on their side of border.

Masood Khalili, told a news conference on 8 August, that Rabbani's Government had not received any logistic or military help from India and that the reports were all baseless accusations. He was apparently shocked over reports in the Pakistani press hinting about increased military cooperation between Kabul and New Delhi.

A five member UN delegation visited Jalalabad on 11 August, to hold talks with leaders of Nangarhar Shura on the Afghan situation.

The UN Security Council, on 11 August, deplored the continuing fighting in Afghanistan, and called on all states to stop the flow of weapons and promote peace. It also called all Afghans to work with the UN Special Mission headed by Mehmood Mestiri, to foster a peaceful settlement.

The Kandahar shura while rejecting the decisions of the Herat conference, under which Professor Rabbani remained in power until October, announced its support to leaders of the three neutral Afghan parties to work for an early and amicable settlement to the Afghan dispute. This was stated by Syed Fazal Din Agha, who represented the Kandahar shura in the Herat conference.

A 10 member delegation from northern Afghanistan held discussions in Pakistan with both Afghan and Pakistani leaders on the future set-up of Afghanistan.

According to a press release, the Special Mission led by Mehmood Mestiri, since beginning the second phase of its work on 22 July, had undertaken a series of extensive and in-depth consultations with representatives of various Afghan parties and individuals on a number of issues. This included a preparatory committee to organize a loya jirga and the arrangement for a viable transitional authority to run the country in the interim period.

Following a kidnapping threat to Mehmood Mestiri, the leader of UN Special Mission for Afghanistan, from one of the Afghan factions, the UN is believed to have sought strict security for him during his stay in Islamabad. An official of the Pakistan Interior Ministry said "We have decided to provide maximum possible protection to the UN representative".

Mestiri, visited Jalalabad on 31 August, and held a lengthy meeting with the Governor of Nangarhar province, Haji A. Qadeer. They exchanged views on matters pertaining to the political situation in Afghanistan with particular reference to the UN's continued efforts aimed at promoting peace in Afghanistan by involving all Afghan groups and personalities in the process.

SEPTEMBER

The UN Secretary General's special envoy for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, said that despite all the problems being faced by the UN Special Mission for Afghanistan, they would continue their efforts to restore peace there.

The UN Special Mission ended its second phase of consultations. The preliminary meeting was not held because of the flat refusal of the representative of President Rabbani to sit together with delegates of National Islamic Movement led by General Rashid Dostum.

Following the failure of Mehmood Mestiri's efforts and President Rabbani's refusal to step down, Dr. Talib, a leader of Shi-ite Hezb-i- Wahdat (a member of the Supreme Coordination Council) said that SCCA represents the majority of Afghan groups; if President Rabbani continued to refuse to step down, they would have no other option but to form a parallel Government.

Maulvi Younis Khalis, leader of his own faction of Hezb-i-Islami, pointed out that the UN and other peace initiatives presently being pursued in Islamabad are not capable of resolving the Afghan conflict. Khalis alleged that an international conspiracy, backed by certain neighboring states, was being hatched to involve General Dostum in peace talks to give legitimacy to former communists. He also said "though I do not back Rabbani's government, I support its stand to oppose Dostum's participation in the peace talks."

Pakistan reopened its embassy in Kabul 7 months after its mission was ransacked by a mob during an anti-Pakistan demonstration.

The UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, said in Islamabad on 7 September - "I have asked Mehmood Mestiri and Sotirios Mousouris, to resume talks next week and enlarge the group of Afghan leaders to include groups outside Afghanistan to provide new momentum". He later held several meetings with different Afghan groups, who according to him all supported the efforts of the UN and urged that Mehmood Mestiri, should continue his mediation.

The UN Security Council has called on all states to promote peace in Afghanistan, to stop the flow of weapons to the warring parties, and to put an end to the destructive war there.

A delegation of US diplomats based in Pakistan visited Jalalabad on 24 September and exchanged views with the Nangarhar Governor.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, went to Kabul for talks with the two Shi-ite groups Hezb-i- Wahdat and Harakat-i-Islami, engaged in fighting in Kabul.

The UN Special Mission to Afghanistan, in the third phase of its work, formed a 14 member contact group comprising prominent Afghans to advise the UN peace mission. They met both in Quetta and Kandahar. At least 7 leading Afghan bureaucrats and technocrats, living in western countries for a long time, arrived in Pakistan to participate in this mission.

Mehmood Mestiri continued discussions with Afghan factions and elders for the second straight day on 29 September, to find a solution to the conflict.

OCTOBER

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Najibullah Lafrai, in a letter addressed to the United Nations Security Council, accused the Government of Uzbekistan of providing military support to General Dostum who, along with Hekmatyar, is fighting against President Rabbani. The letter leveled serious allegations against Uzbekistan and alleged that it gave four aircraft to Dostum.

The Afghan Advisory Council, in its meetings in Quetta under the auspices of United Nations peace team, constituted a political committee, with former Afghan Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Yousuf as its president. Other office bearers of the committee included Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad as its vice president and Prof. Rasool Amin as its secretary. Professor Abdul Sattar, Dr. Abdul Samad, and Abdul Ahad Kahn Karzai are its members.

President Rabbani, invited Mehmood Mestiri, to visit Kabul and hold talks with leaders of the warring Afghan factions. Masood Khalili, a special envoy of President Rabbani, said that he extended an invitation to Mestiri, on behalf of the Afghan Government on 6 October.

President Rabbani accepted a call from Mehmood Mestiri, and sent a team of his representatives to the Quetta moot. Masood Khalili, Rabbani's special envoy, said on 10 October, that he had been instructed by the President to represent him at the UN-sponsored talks.

President Rabbani, in a message to the UN-sponsored meeting in Quetta, made a conditional offer to step down for the sake of a peace settlement - his resignation should in no way give any political advantage to his opponents and that immunity for Kabul from attacks be guaranteed.

President Rabbani and Prof. Sayyaf, leader of Ittehad-i- Islami, arrived in Jalalabad, on 13 October. They continued deliberations with some Afghan leaders in the mountain base of Professor Sayyaf near the Pak-Afghan border for the third consecutive day on 15 October.

According to the news, Mehmood Mestiri flew to Mazar-i- Sharif on 17 October, to negotiate with General Dostum, an opponent of Rabbani whose party is a member of SCCIRA (anti-Rabbani coalition led by Hekmatyar).

President Rabbani reached an agreement with three other mujahideen leaders, Prof. Sayyaf, Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, and Younis Khalis, on a formula for the election of a new president by a traditional assembly. The agreement called for 30 representatives to be elected from each Province to meet and organize a national assembly, or shura, which would appoint a new Afghan leader to replace Rabbani.

The Supreme Coordination Council (anti-Rabbani coalition) urged the UN to revive its plan for the formation of a commission of all parties to form an interim government and take charge from Rabbani as soon as possible. It proposed that the interim set up, after assuming charge, should disarm Kabul city before holding free and fair elections in the country.

Mehmood Mestiri met President Rabbani in Jalalabad on 18 October. Both sides put forward new proposals for ending the conflict in Afghanistan. In related developments, the Saudi Ambassador to Afghanistan arrived in Jalalabad to hold talks with Afghan leaders.

Hezb-i Islami's famous commander, Zardad Khan, in an interview on 19 October, charged that India and France were providing technical and financial assistance to prop up President Rabbani.

President Rabbani, in an interview in Jalalabad, denied military links between Kabul and India, and said that he was pained by reports in the Pakistani media that his Government was receiving military assistance from India. He said more painful was the fact that Pakistani authorities suspected military links between Afghan and Indian Governments. He said "if this is the state of awareness of the Pakistani intelligence agencies, I can only pray to Allah to save Pakistan."

The spokesman of President Rabbani said on 19 October that unless a legitimate body is formed to accept the transfer of power, President Burhanuddin Rabbani will not step down before the end of December. He also added that Rabbani would not step down even after the December expiry date of his elected term in office if factional hostilities continued in the new year. Fighting only lengthens, not shortens, the term of the presidency.

Another round of talks was held between President Rabbani and Mestiri, on 19 October, in Jalalabad. They agreed to hold their next talks in Kabul. Prof. Sayyaf, leader of Ittehad-i Islami, did not meet Mehmood Mestiri. His spokesman said that Sayyaf decided not to meet Mestiri until it was agreed to exclude former militia head General Dostum from the peace process.

Mehmood Mestiri and Sotirios Mousouris flew to Jalalabad and drove straight to Sarobi and held intensive talks with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Mestiri briefed him on the Quetta peace moot and the recommendations to solve the Afghan problem. Hekmatyar reiterated his party's stand on the issue, demanding the formation of an interim government for a six months period, comprising of neutral, non-controversial personalities to hold elections in Afghanistan. It is understood that the UN mission also insisted that Hekmatyar declare a three or four day moratorium and lift the road-blockade to enable relief agencies to supply food and medical supplies to Kabul city.

The Iranian delegation in Kabul held peace talks with Afghan leaders, as well as with Abdul Ali Mazari, Chief of Hezb-i Wahdat, and discussed the prevailing situation with them. Former Afghan President Prof. Mujaddadi also attended the meeting. The delegation also expected to meet Hekmatyar in Charasyab or Sarobi.

The spokesman of the UN special mission, Francis Okelo said on 26 October that Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had made "useful and constructive" proposals for pushing forward the peace process in Afghanistan. This would be seriously considered by the UN Special Mission on Afghanistan. These proposals were made during the meeting which was held in Sarobi.

The UN Special Mission flew to Bagram airbase and drove to Jabal Seraj, Masood's military base at the north of Kabul, on 28 October. The mission had a four and half hours meeting with the former Defence minister, Ahmad Shah Masood, and presented him a set of proposals for the peace process. The mission called the meeting "very good and very encouraging".

Mehmood Mestiri, went to Mazar-i Sharif and met Rashid Dostum, on 29 October. General Dostum assured his full support for UN efforts to resolve the Afghan crisis and establish peace in Afghanistan. A UN official said that the talks with Dostum were very constructive.

NOVEMBER

The Iranian delegation, which went to Kabul to seek a political settlement to the Afghan crisis, returned from Kabul, apparently without making any breakthrough to bring about reconciliation between the warring Afghan factions. They held several meetings with President Rabbani, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Hezb-i- Wahdad leader Abdul Ali Mazari, Ittehad Islami Chief Professor Sayyaf and Dostum's Deputy General Humayun Fouzi.

Mestiri held talks with the Governor of Herat, General Ismail Khan. They discussed the overall state of affairs in Afghanistan and peace proposals regarding a ceasefire, transfer of power, convening of a Loya Jirga and the establishment of a neutral security force in Afghanistan.

According to a USIS press release issued on 1st November, the United States has expressed its deep concern over the plight of the Afghan people. It says that the United States joins the UN in calling for a cessation of hostilities, the lifting of the food blockade of Kabul and for all Afghans to support the efforts of the UN's mission to bring about a peaceful political process.

On 4 November, the spokesman of the UN Special Mission for Afghanistan, Francis Okelo, said that the mission works on the formation of a "fully representative council" to oversee arrangements for ceasefire, transitional government, transfer of power and convening of a Loya Jirga. "We are discussing the size of the council, representation of the Afghan parties and its power" he added.

The spokesman of the Afghan Government commenting on the UN peace plan on 6 November said "We accept the idea of a commission to handle the transfer of power from President Rabbani, but not its composition as proposed by the UN."

A spokesman of the Afghan Government accused Uzbekistan on 7 November of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and threatening the relations between the two countries. The cabinet member Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai said that if the Government of Uzbekistan does not stop its anti-Afghan acts of interference, the state and the people of Afghanistan have no other option but to retaliate". He claimed that Uzbekistan delivered 30 Russian-made T-62 tanks, ammunition and assorted arms to Rashid Dostum.

President Rabbani presented a proposal to the UN special envoy on Afghanistan in response to his peace plan for the transfer of power and formation of an interim Government in Afghanistan, BBC reported. Setting up of a commission for making arrangements to hold a Loya Jirga and transfer of power are the main points of the proposal.

Indian officials in New Delhi said that India, in a meeting with the Afghan civil aviation minister, Abdul Rehman, agreed to train Afghan commercial pilots for the Ariana Afghan Airlines.

The United States Assistant Secretary of state, Ms. Robin Raphel, visited the Italian capital Rome after her visit to Afghanistan and Pakistan. She met the former Afghan King Zahir Shah there. The meeting focused on the need for restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan and the region.

The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) invited all the Afghan parties to attend peace talks in Tehran on 29 November.

The Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan led by Hezb-i- Islami formally responded to the UN peace initiative, agreeing largely to Mestiri's proposals.

Afghan warring factions opened talks in Tehran on 29 November in a bid to put an end to the Afghan crisis. However, a press release of the Ittehad-i- Islami Afghanistan issued in Peshawar on 29 November said that IIA has decided to stay away from the peace talks of Tehran. It alleged that General Dostum was the root cause of the present crisis in Afghanistan but even then he was invited to peace talks.

DECEMBER

United Nations made another appeal for the release of former Afghan President Dr. Najibullah who has spent 31 months as a virtual prisoner in the UN office in Kabul. However, an official spokesman for President Burhanuddin Rabbani said on 4 December that "Dr. Najib has to undergo a trial in accordance with a verdict passed by the people's representatives" in the nation's Council of Elders.

US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms. Robin Raphael, in an interview with VOA, said that the establishment of a strong central Government in Afghanistan is in the interest of neighboring countries as well as the rest of the world. She said that the US was deeply concerned about the current situation in Afghanistan and added that some people had developed the apprehension that the US wanted to bring back the old monarchy system. "This was not true".

The UN special envoy for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, met President Burhanuddin Rabbani on 6 December, as the first UN convoy in six months brought emergency supplies into Kabul. He travelled to say goodbye to Afghan leaders ahead of his departure from the post of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative for humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.

The US ambassador to Pakistan, John C. Monjo, expressed concern for humanitarian conditions in Afghanistan. He visited Jalalabad on 12 December and toured the refugee camps there.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-i- Islami led Supreme Coordination Council resented the OIC invitation to President Rabbani as Head of State in the conference and demanded that Afghanistan's seat be left vacant until the formation of a truly Islamic and representative government.

Condemning the international community for ignoring the conflict in Afghanistan, Amnesty International urged the UN Secretary General and High Commissioner for Human Rights to make sure that practical recommendations made by the international human-rights bodies are acted upon.

Afghan President Professor Rabbani, who attended the 7th OIC summit which ended on 15 December in Morocco, had separate meetings with a number of Heads of State and officials of Governments of Islamic countries. He sought the attention and cooperation of these countries in the reconstruction process.

Hezb-i- Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who arrived in Pakistan on 19 December on his first trip following a long gap to hold talks with Pakistan authorities, returned to Jalalabad on 21 December. Pakistani Officials confirmed that Hekmatyar and General Rashid Dostum were in Islamabad to discuss various peace proposals.

AID AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

JANUARY

Due the continuous heavy fighting which broke out in Kabul on 1st January, thousands of people were displaced and started to arrive in Jalalabad. A high-level mission of the UN agencies visited Jalalabad on 12 January to meet with the local authorities and NGOs and review the situation of the displaced people on the ground. They inspected the site of a new camp at Sar Shahi, 18 km from Jalalabad, which was designated by the authorities to receive the newly arrived displaced people from Kabul.

The UN agencies in cooperation with the local authorities and a number of NGOs established a new camp in Sar Shahi, where the newly arrived families have been accommodated.

First relief convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in Kabul on 17 January, delivering 20 MT medical supplies to the besieged city of Kabul.

The French government agreed to donate US\$ 260,000 as a contribution to the emergency operation for Afghan refugees from Kabul.

The Islamic Coordination Council (Coordination body of Pakistan based Arab NGOs) collected US\$ 1 million in cash and goods to provide relief to the recent Afghan displaced people.

The Canadian High Commission announced on 30 January that the Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), contributed Rs. 160 million to the World Food Program in support of its program for assistance to Afghanistan.

FEBRUARY

According to a British High Commission press release issued in Islamabad, the British Government made a grant of Pounds Sterling 250,000 to provide blankets, tarpaulins, stoves and kerosine to 5,000 families moved from their homes due to fighting in the Afghan capital - this assistance to be delivered by CARE International.

On 14 February, the Canadian Government announced an additional contribution of Rs. 74 million as part of the international Afghan relief efforts.

MARCH

A six truck UN food convoy, that was stranded outside Kabul for three days, moved to Kabul on 6 March after the Afghan Prime Minister lifted the blockade for its safe passage to areas held by the President. Another UN convoy of 32 trucks left Peshawar for Kabul on 8 March.

About 1500 tents sent by International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), a Jeddah-based NGO, for distribution among the displaced people in Jalalabad, were not allowed to be taken across the border into Afghanistan.

The Indian diplomatic team which was in Kabul said on 21 December "We have decided to re-open our embassy; however, it is a matter of timing, logistics and security".

BBC reported that the UN General Assembly had approved a peace plan for Afghanistan. It has asked the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mehmood Mestiri to set up an office in Afghanistan immediately.

A presidential spokesman said in Kabul on 20 December that President Rabbani had declared a unilateral ceasefire in Kabul, but had not announced his expected resignation from office. He reiterated that he was ready to step down, but he believed a unilateral transfer of power would not solve Afghanistan's problem.

President Rabbani and his associates including Prof. Sayyaf and Ahmad Shah Masood proposed name of Maulvi Mohammad Shah Fazli as the future President of the interim Government.

The Opposition led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, strongly reacted to President Rabbani's plan of handing over power to Mohammad Shah Fazli. It considered it another act to continue the uncertain situation which would only add to the grievances of the common people.

Mehmood Mestiri arrived in Islamabad on 27 December to resume his peace mission. He urged the Afghan warring factions for a 3-day ceasefire to facilitate dialogue in Kabul to discuss the mechanism to effect transfer of power from outgoing President Rabbani. He held a meeting with President Rabbani's special envoy and a delegation of the Opposition (SCCIRA) on 28-29 December.

In his latest move, President Rabbani called for joint meeting of all warring groups including the Supreme Coordination Council, headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, in Kabul "as soon as possible".

In the final part of the message sent by Mehmood Mestiri, Head of the UN Special mission for Afghanistan, he requested the Afghan President to delay the transfer of power until his arrival in Kabul, scheduled for 31 December -the process has been postponed and it may take months for it to restart.

SECURITY MATTERS

JANUARY

Thousands of people fled Kabul on 8 January as the 24-hour cease-fire between warring Afghan groups came into effect.

General Abdul Momen, deputy to Dostum, was killed in a mysterious helicopter crash in northern Afghanistan on 5 January.

On 19 January, an Afghan woman was killed and her two sons injured by three armed Afghans who entered their house in Nasir Bagh refugee camp in Peshawar on the night.

FEBRUARY

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on 1 February that casualties in the Afghan factional fighting in Kabul have topped 12,000 with between 800 and 900 killed.

In early February, 9 people were killed and 7 injured in a clash between two groups in Kunar province. A press release issued by ICRC in Islamabad on 7 February said that over 500 serious casualties were admitted to the Afghan capital's hospitals during the week ending 6 February.

On 19 February, minor small-arms fire between the Hezb-i-Wahdat and troops loyal to the Afghan President was reported from south of Kabul city.

On 20 February, three unidentified Afghans kidnapped a school bus with 62 people on board from Peshawar. The kidnappers were killed and the hostages were rescued unharmed when Pakistan Commandos stormed the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad, where the hostages were taken. Following this incident, an angry mob attacked the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul on 23 February.

Felix Ermacora, Special Rapporteur to the UN Human Rights Commission, on 22 Feb. said that power struggle in Afghanistan is threatening to spill over and create conflict in the entire region.

15 people were killed and 27 injured when anti-Rabbani forces fired rockets and mortar shells into Kabul on 26 February.

12 Tajik refugees were killed and 58 injured in intense rocketing over Kunduz Province in northern Afghanistan following fighting between rival factions.

MARCH

Fighters loyal to the Afghan Prime Minister shot and wounded a Canadian journalist and his Afghan interpreter on 5 March while they were travelling in a car near the front line of fighting in the Afghan capital.

At least six people were killed and 22 others injured in Kabul city when several rockets landed near a UN food distribution center on 7 March.

A report issued by UNOCHA said that about 200,000 civilians had been killed and some 400,000 disabled in mine incidents in Afghanistan. It is estimated that 6,000 more lose their lives or limbs every year.

At least 28 people were killed and some 130 injured in fighting between supporters and opponents of the Afghan President in Kabul on 26 March.

APRIL

A commander of Ittehad-i-Islami along with his three bodyguards were shot dead near Gardez, Paktia Province.

At least 16 people were killed and 144 wounded in Kabul on 11 April in a jet strike and a heavy artillery bombardment by anti-Rabbani forces. 10 more people were killed and 30 injured when rockets hit different parts of the city on the next day.

Four days of relentless rocketing by the warring factions in Kabul left scores of civilians dead and at least 500 people wounded, hospital officials said on 15 April.

At least 140 civilians were wounded on 21 April in fighting between Hezb-i-Wahdat and government troops. The number of killed was not known. A few days later, on 28 April, about 21 persons were killed and 32 injured when rockets hit Kabul.

MAY

Three persons were killed and more than 100 injured when rocket-fire was exchanged between Rabbani's and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar forces on 2 May. Similarly, a number of rockets slammed into Kabul on 4 May, killing at least 4 persons and wounding more than 100 others. On 5 May 130 people were injured, while 2 persons were killed and 2 others injured on 6 May, when rockets hit various parts of Kabul. Reports add that another rocket slammed into an apartment in Kabul and injured 11 persons on 9 May.

Some 77 casualties were reported by hospitals on 14 May after two hours of fighting in Kabul, while another 4 people were killed and 116 injured in a four hour battle between the warring factions on 17 May. According to reports 20 people were killed and 30 injured by a rocket in a crowded checkpoint controlled by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar forces, in Chelsitoon, Kabul on 19 May.

At least 60 people were killed in fighting between rival factions around the town of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan, reports said on 18 May.

More than 36 people were killed and 22 injured in fighting between two tribes in the border province of Kunar.

Five people were killed and more than 20 injured as a result of fighting between two Shi-it parties in Kabul, on 24 May. Another report received from Kabul said that some 30 people were wounded in an artillery duel between rival forces in the northern part of Kabul, on 26 May. Similarly, it was reported that 7 children were killed when a rocket exploded near Kabul's southern frontline residents on 31 May.

JUNE

Six persons were killed and 15 injured in rocket and mortar attack on Kabul on 1st June, while another 2 people killed and 62 injured when hundreds of rockets hit hit on 8 June.

Four people were killed and around 100 injured in an exchange of rocket fire and shelling in the capital Kabul on 10 June. In other rocket attacks in Kabul, 6 persons were killed and 25 injured on 11 June, while 2 others were killed and 5 injured on 12 June.

In mid June, heavy fighting broke out between rival forces in Kandahar city as a result of which 26 persons were killed.

Heavy fighting between two commanders of Hezb-i-Islami Khalis and Hekmatyar left four dead and 30 injured in Hisar Shahi, Jalalabad, on 14 June.

On 22, 24 and 25 June, Herat City was bombed by aircraft belonging to General Dostum, killing several civilians.

On 27 and 28 June, Kabul was targeted by anti-government air-force jets as a result of which 12 people were killed and about 30 others injured.

Troops loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani shot dead six Pakistani nationals and arrested seven other Pakistanis in clashes with rival forces in Kabul late June.

JULY

Fourteen people were killed and 90 injured in a rocket and jet bombardment on Kabul on 2 July, by anti-government forces.

On 4 July, nine persons including seven children and a woman were killed in Herat city when it was bombed by Dostum's war-planes.

On 7 July, at least 33 people were killed and over 100 injured as fresh fighting broke out in and around Kabul.

Nine rockets slammed into the presidential palace during a lunch for OIC peace delegation on 11 July. No casualties were reported. On 12 July about 60 rockets were fired on Kabul, killing two people and injuring eight others.

Three soldiers were killed and 43 civilians wounded on 16 July, when about 150 rockets were launched on Kabul. On 17 July, anti-government forces fired hundreds of rockets at the capital, leaving 11 persons dead and 40 wounded. Another three persons were killed and 10 others wounded when Kabul was hit by rockets on 18 July.

At least 10 to 12 rockets were fired into central Kabul, 24 July, striking the foreign ministry area and adjacent government offices with one civilian killed and 5 others injured. Reports from Kabul said that another five persons were killed and 40 others were injured in when a number of rockets hit the city, on 27 July.

A leading Hezb-i- Islami (Hekmatyar) commander Nasir Khan and 37 of his men were killed in an ambush in Mehterlam, capital of Laghman Province on 26 July.

Four persons were killed and several others injured in a heavy bombardment on Charasyab by Government planes on 26 July.

Mirwais Jalil, a BBC correspondent in Afghanistan, who was kidnapped on 29 July, by five masked gunmen near the Chilsitoo Palace area in Kabul, while returning after interviewing chief of Hezb-i- Islami Afghanistan, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, was killed. His body was found near the Chilsitoo Palace on 30 July, and then it was taken to the ICRC Hospital in Kabul. His bullet-ridden body was buried in Peshawar, on 31 July. Meanwhile, a United Nations press release issued on 30 July, condemned the murder of Mirwais Jalil, and said that the brutal assassination of an Afghan journalist outside Kabul is a dastardly and ominous act which deserves to be condemned in the strongest terms.

According to reports at least 15 persons were killed and several others were injured as a result of fighting in Kabul on 30 July.

AUGUST

At least 11 people were killed and 20 injured when Kabul came under a rocket attack by opposition forces on 6 August.

Eleven persons were killed and about 150 wounded on 12 August, as a result of fighting when at least 200 rockets hit Kabul city. On 15 August 10 people were killed and 16 others injured when a salvo of rockets slammed into Kabul city.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's planes bombed an airport in Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's controlled Logar province on 15 August for the second time during the last four days.

The ICRC said on 16 August, that in the past 10 days fighting in and around Kabul, about 100 people were killed and 900 wounded. Private houses, public buildings, and a number of hospitals were also hit.

At least 24 people were killed and more than 100 wounded when 100 rockets fired into Kabul, Radio Kabul reported on 21 August. Similarly, at least 35 rockets hit different parts of Kabul on 23 August, killing one person and injuring 15 others.

A barrage of 37 rockets hit different parts of Kabul on 23 August killing 3 persons and injuring 12, Radio Kabul reported.

Several people were killed and more than 50 injured on 25 August in a rocket attack on the western suburb of Kabul near the Intercontinental Hotel, where a special election commission was meeting to try to convene a grand National Assembly, or Loya Jirga.

According to the Afghan Islamic Press, at least 110 rockets hit Kabul city on 27 August, killing 20 persons and injuring more than 100.

SEPTEMBER

An important commander of Hezb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) Sadiq Iwanay, was gunned down along with his bodyguard in an ambush near the Pakistan/Afghanistan border, Torkham, in Afghanistan's territory on 6 September.

25 people were killed and 61 others injured when a number of rockets hit the residential parts of Kabul on 6 September.

Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires in Kabul, escaped death when a huge rocket exploded, within seconds of his car passing by, just before entering the embassy's main gate.

At least 12 persons died and 140 others were injured on 14 September in heavy fighting between Afghan Shi-ite groups in southern Kabul. This was in addition to another 19 killed in two days battle in eastern Maranjan Hill.

President Rabbani's warplanes again bombed Kabul's southern suburb of Darulaman on 16 September, as rival Shi-ite groups continued fighting there. Sunni fighters of Ittehad-i- Islami (Sayyaf) an ally of Rabbani, joined the fighting on the side of the Shi-ite faction, Harakat-i-Islami against its rival Hezb-i- Wahdat group which is aligned with forces led by Hekmatyar.

At least 46 people were killed and 280 injured in the heaviest fighting in the south-west of Kabul on 17 September.

About 25 women and children were killed when gunmen fired at a passenger bus carrying a marriage party near Kandahar city in south-western Afghanistan.

According to reports by foreign medical aid sources, the 13 days long fighting between Shi-ite groups in Kabul, resulted in about 600-700 civilians deaths and more than 2000 others wounded up to 24 September.

Severe fighting went on in Jaji area of Paktia province for the fifth day, on 27 September. The fighting erupted when members of the Jaji tribes together with Hezb-i- Islami (Hekmatyar) attacked a base belonging to Prof. Sayyaf's Ittehad-i- Islami. Afghan sources said that the President's warplanes bombed the area five times on 25 September, in a bid to disperse the Jaji tribesmen and Hezb-i- Islami fighters besieging the base. A spokesman of Jaji tribes in Peshawar claimed that 16 depots and a truck belonging to Prof. Sayyaf in the area have been captured along with 220 men and their commander named Mir.

More than 40 people mostly women and children were killed and 70 others injured when a rocket exploded at the site of a wedding ceremony in a private home in Qala Fathullah in Kabul on 27 September.

Heavy fighting went on between Shi-ite groups in south Kabul on 28 September around the University and the Scud missile base, parts of which were captured by opposition coalition forces. Reports say that President Rabbani's troops massed on 29 September for a counter attack to recapture the Scud base.

OCTOBER

ICRC estimated that during the month of September at least 1,100 people were killed and more than 23,000 people wounded, the highest casualty toll this year in Kabul fighting.

The strongest commander of Prof. Sayyaf's Ittehad-i- Islami party, Amir Mohammad Khan, along with 15 others were killed on 7 October, in Chardara district, Kunduz province of Afghanistan.

At least 17 people were killed and many others injured, when dozens of rockets hit Kabul on 9 October. On 13 October rockets rained down on Kabul, which injured at least 36 civilians.

At least two dead and 31 wounded were brought to the two main central Kabul hospitals as a result of rocket attacks on Kabul, on 18 October.

Some 14 people were killed and 30 wounded in intensified factional fighting in Kabul on 21 October. Warplanes of President Rabbani and the opposition led by Hekmatyar, bombed each other's positions on the frontline and rocketed areas in the city.

Six people were killed and 24 others wounded when rockets hit central Kabul on 23 October. Another report said that some 43 people were killed and 95 wounded in rocket attacks in Kabul on 24 October. Among the casualties were 10 passengers who's taxi cab was blown up by a rocket and another 15 people killed in a direct rocket hit on a bus.

Forces loyal to President Rabbani bombarded rival factions in south Kabul on 25 October, with heavy Russian-made Urgan rockets. In return, Hezb-i- Islami and Wahdat gunners shelled the central city mountain peaks where many of Rabbani's heavy weapons are based.

Presidential troops battled rival factions with rockets, air strikes and machine gun fire in heavy fighting that touched all parts of Kabul on 31 October. Two hospitals reported 35 wounded by midday. There was no immediate figure on the number killed. A day earlier at least 10 civilians were killed and about 100 injured.

President Rabbani's troops recaptured a Hudkhel village on the national highway to Pakistan, which was fallen to Hezb-i- Islami forces on 31 October and cleared the road for traffic.

NOVEMBER

Three persons were killed and two children injured when a device inside the scrap of a junk shop went off in Jalalabad on 1st November.

At least 19 people were killed and 36 wounded in Kabul fighting on 4 November. The Government air force repeatedly bombed the positions of the opposition forces, AIP reported. Another report says that the number of wounded was 94.

Commander Mohammad Arif, head of the Education Department and member of the Nangarhar Commanders' Shura was killed along with his two young sons and a nephew in an ambush near Jalalabad on 5 November. Fourteen others were wounded in the incident.

About 30 people were killed and 40 injured in fighting between supporters of Haji Sarkatib and religious students near Kandahar city.

A barrage of 30 rockets hit several parts of Kabul on 20 November killing 12 people and wounding 11 others.

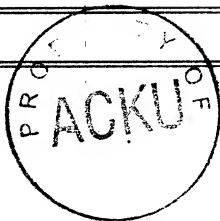
DECEMBER

Fighting erupted in Afghanistan's northern Province of Faryab on 18 December between forces loyal to President Rabbani and General Rashid Dostum's forces. According to radio Kabul four commanders and 34 troops of Dostum were killed and 19 were captured by pro-Rabbani troops.

One soldier loyal to President Rabbani, was wounded and civilian traffic was temporarily stopped during a clash between military groups guarding an important south Kabul intersection (Dehmazang Square) on 20 December.

Four people were killed and 32 wounded when 24 rockets hit the capital Kabul on 24-25 December, radio Kabul reported.

A number of people were killed and injured as a result of fighting in western and southern parts of Kabul city on 28 December.



OTHER NEWS

AUGUST

The Afghan Deputy Minister for Health, Dr. Faizullah Kakar, called upon the International agencies to provide assistance in fighting against Cholera and other diseases which have struck Afghanistan. This summer about 38,000 cases of severe diarrhoea were reported and 118 patients died, he said.

NOVEMBER

The Governor of Nangarhar Province, Haji Abdul Qadeer, declared that people of four districts guaranteed that they will not grow poppy on their land.

The Afghan Drugs Awareness Center, for the first time, organized a two-day seminar on drugs in Jalalabad - attended by elders from some 20 districts.

An eleven-member delegation of the United States Congressional Staffers visited the Afghan Refugee Camp at Kacha Garhi near Peshawar on 16 November.

The Human Rights Commission in Kabul bitterly criticized the Afghan warring factions for violating the ceasefire, agreed on 19 November for one week, in connection with the vaccination program there.

According to PPI reports on 22 November, the administration of Nangarhar Province closed down all UNDCP projects and its staff thrown out from Afghanistan because of "the negative approach and gross misappropriation of funds". The Governor said that the UNDCP officials were more interested in personal comforts and luxuries than the actual work of eradication of poppy by providing alternative source of income to the people in a proper manner.

DECEMBER

About 26 Afghan refugees were killed and 46 injured during recent clashes in Bajaur Agency in November. The Afghan refugee camps came under fire when Frontier Corps militia attacked positions of Tanzim Nifaz Shariat-i- Mohammadi activists located close to the camps; their camps were inadvertently hit in the crossfire.

To mark the International Day of the Disabled on 3 December, ACBAR Disability Taskforce initiated a one day "Exhibition By and For Afghan Disabled" at the WFP compound in Peshawar. Some 13 stalls were set up by nine National and International NGOs involved in the disability field for Afghans.

Mujahideen commanders and fighters, Ulema and ordinary people took part in a demonstration in Mehterlam, capital of Laghman, on 19 December to condemn Russia's invasion of Chechnya.

The ambassadors of Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman accompanied by UNHCR and WHO officials visited Sarshahi Camp in Jalalabad.

In mid March, a French relief organization sent 10 MT medical supplies to a hospital in Kabul located in an area under the control of pro-Rabbani forces.

Indian Welfare Minister and his Afghan counterpart in a meeting in New Delhi on 26 March, offered training facilities for the rehabilitation of handicapped in Afghanistan.

APRIL

The Mine Clearance Program of UNOCHA has cleared 33.4 km², out of 113.5 km² of minefields listed as requiring high priority clearance in Afghanistan.

A convoy of relief consignment goods (300 tents, 2,500 blankets and 1,200 bags of flour) donated by Iran left Peshawar for Kabul on 6 April.

British Government is to give Pound sterling 500,000 to rehabilitate water supplies and to remove solid waste from Kabul city. The money will be provided to CARE International and UNCHS.

MAY

On 11 May, the US Ambassador to Pakistan, Director of USAID for Pakistan and Afghanistan, and UNICEF Representative for Afghanistan signed an agreement to provide a grant of US \$965,000 to fund an immunization program for women and children in Afghanistan.

An ICRC convoy consisting of 10-truck load food and medicine left for Kabul on 18 May. This followed the decision of the Coordination Council (the anti-government alliance) to allow the passage of relief supplies up until the last day of Eid.

JUNE

UNOCHA said that the Greek Government had donated US\$ 10,000 for preservation work in the Kabul Museum, which had been damaged in 1992 by rocketing and the subsequent fire.

The UN decided to reopen its office in Afghanistan. The office will temporarily be based in Jalalabad until the security situation allows a permanent return to Kabul.

JULY

The UN closed down its mission in Herat city, owing to air attacks by Dostum's air-force and evacuated the International staff to Iran. Danish staff of a public hospital left the city as well.

Britain's Overseas Development Administration agreed to provide pounds sterling 3.8 million of humanitarian aid to the United Nation agencies and Non-governmental organizations working in Afghanistan.

AUGUST

The Canadian High Commission announced on 10 August, that the Government of Canada through CIDA has contributed an additional Rs.22 million towards international relief efforts for the people of Afghanistan. Canada has given Rs.250 million in emergency assistance to Afghanistan since January 1994.

Egypt, the first Arab country in the last two years to respond to the UN appeal for contributions to Afghanistan, donated 309 kgs of emergency medical supplies to UN officials on 10 August.

UNHCR has so far accommodated 24,062 displaced families (184,000 people) from Kabul in various camps in Jalalabad and its surrounding areas. The number was increasing daily.

China provided a donation of warm clothes comprising of blankets, shoes, trousers, and sweaters, weighing 453.4 MT with a value of Rs.15 million for Afghan refugees on 15 August.

The UNDP was given final approval for a series of new projects and a total contribution of US \$24 million to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

A spokesman for Afghan refugees in Iran, Syed Khan Badshah Rohani, stated on 22 August, that the Iranian government was forcing Afghan refugees to leave Iran. He said the authorities had taken back refugee passes and were repatriating them by charging them with illegal stay in Iran.

SEPTEMBER

Mayor of Kabul, Fazel Karim, at a meeting of foreign aid agencies in Kabul on 30 August, requested them to provide support of US\$4 million to restore basic municipal services in Kabul.

China handed over 350 tons wheat and fourteen tons of medicines for Afghan refugees in Pakistan on 8 September.

IRNA reported that a group of 700 Afghan refugees (153 families) of Turkmen was due to leave for Turkmenistan within the next week through an arrangement with the Turkmen embassy in Tehran. Other Afghan Turkmen who had applied to return to Turkmenistan also received a positive response from the embassy.

The European Commission decided to provide approximately Rs 74 million of new humanitarian aid for Afghans. This brings the total aid given by EC in 1994 to Rs. 228.4 million.

Pakistan's consulate started functioning in Herat to further strengthen Pak-Afghan links, particularly in the field of trade and development.

OCTOBER

A press release issued by the United Nations office in Peshawar said that the UN assistance for Afghanistan has received Pounds Sterling 500,000 for the demining programme in Afghanistan. It added that the World Food Program (WFP) has provided 20,000 tones of wheat and wheat flour for Afghan people.

According to an Afghan diplomat, Iran stepped up the pressure on thousands of Afghan refugees to leave that country, despite promises by officials that the refugees would be spared a winter trek home. He said that the police in the province of Khurasan, where up to 700,000 Afghans live, has intensified a crackdown on refugees, systematically confiscating their identity cards and providing them instead with temporary permits valid for a few weeks; after the expiry of which refugees must leave Iran or face expulsion.

NOVEMBER

A convoy of trucks carrying 70 tonnes of medical supplies from the ICRC safely reached Kabul from Pakistan on 6 November.

United Nations launched another appeal to the international community for funding of US\$106 million for emergency humanitarian assistance for war-weary people of Afghanistan.

ICRC began an emergency airlift of medical supplies to Kabul on 11 November, using an Indonesian military cargo plane. The plane landed in the Government controlled Bagram military airbase, 70 km north of Kabul with 14 tonnes of emergency supplies. It was due to take 18 tonnes of medical supplies from Jalalabad to an opposition controlled airport in Logar.

The Government of Iran launched a programme under which Afghan children were to be vaccinated inside Afghanistan. The Iranian Health Ministry donated 8 million vaccines and set up a team of experts and doctors to visit various parts of Afghanistan for the purpose.

The UN sponsored vaccination programme could not start in Kabul on 19 November because of continued fighting. However, it got underway in the peaceful Afghan cities of Mazar-i- Sharif, Jalalabad, and Herat.

A ten-member team of ophthalmologists of the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Pakistan went to Herat and set up a free eye camp for operations and treatment of eye diseases. More than 5000 eye patients of the area received treatment. The team was equipped with ambulances, medicines, and glasses.

Taking into account the approach of winter, the European Commission decided to award Rs.140 million of new humanitarian aid for the suffering Afghans.

DECEMBER

According to a USIS Press release issued on 30 November in Peshawar, the US Department of State declared a state of emergency in the city of Kabul "as fighting has intensified in Afghanistan in recent weeks". It further added that USAID/OFDA announced on November 28 that "it is preparing to provide emergency assistance in response to the humanitarian crisis in Kabul. Our intent is to provide immediate funding to international relief organizations already operating emergency programmes in Afghanistan".

Afghanistan and Pakistan signed a protocol of cooperation for repair of the roads in Afghanistan from Spin Boldak to Torghundi through Kandahar and Herat. Pakistan agreed to provide a grant of Rs 50 million for this project.

For the first time in more than six months a UN aid convoy (about 50 trucks) carrying food and other emergency aid for both sides of the front-line, reached Kabul.

The United Nations established a new refugee camp in Hada area, southeastern province of Nangarhar. About 4,262 families comprising 26,425 individuals have been accommodated in the newly established camp.

Britain provided a further pounds sterling 2.75 million for emergency aid for Afghanistan which would be channelled through UN agencies, ICRC, and NGOs.

The UN said on 13 December that it had managed to get its first aid convoy in nearly two years to Kunduz in Northern Afghanistan. An eight lorry convoy with 20,000 blankets and plastic sheets would be given to some 12,000 Tajiks and a similar number of Afghans in refugee camps.

Director of Organization of Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) claimed on 13 December that the western parts of Herat province (priority areas) would be cleared of land-mines by the end of 1995, while the rest of the Province would take from four to six years.

The European Commission announced new aid of ECU 1.95 million equivalent to Rs 74.25 million for Afghanistan.

During the first week of December the UN assistance for Afghanistan had received aid pledges of US\$ 1,119,340 from Denmark, the Netherlands and the Norwegian NGOs, NRC and NCA, for relief operations in Afghanistan.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

JANUARY

On 1 January, Uzbek militia led by General Rashid Dostum and Hezb-i-Islami Hekmatyar joined forces against President Rabbani in an attempt to gain control of Kabul. This resulted in the heaviest fighting in six months. Both sides used military aircraft to bomb each other's positions. Neither side appeared to make any significant military gains. Thousands of people were injured/killed and many citizens of Kabul were forced to leave the city. The fighting also spread to the northern provinces of the country. According to figures released by ICRC on 19 January the casualty toll in the factional fighting in Kabul topped 8,000.

FEBRUARY

Hezb-i-Islami Hekmatyar opened up a new front in the Afghan capital attacking from the Jangalak, south of the city. It was the first major attack on this front since the recent fighting started on January 1.

MARCH

Hezb-i-Islami Hekmatyar claimed on 28 February that the joint forces of Shura-i-Hamahangi (the anti-Rabbani alliance) captured Kunduz Province in the north. However, on 8 March it was claimed that forces loyal to the Afghan President recaptured the Province.

MAY

A senior Afghan Defence Ministry officer said that forces loyal to President Rabbani entered Baghlan city on 8 May. However, this was denied by the anti-government forces.

Forces loyal to Prime Minister Hekmatyar claimed to have repulsed an attack launched by government troops to capture Sarobi and Naghlu dam on Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

The Afghan Defence Ministry claimed (on 18 May) that the joint forces of the Defence Ministry and Ittehad-i-Islami captured Maidan Shahr, a strategic town 30 km west of Kabul. This was denied by the anti-government forces.

JUNE

On 30 May, heavy fire was exchanged when Pakistani forces attacked Mullah Rocketi's strongholds in Zabul in an unsuccessful attempt to force the release of ten captives he held.

On 26 May, President Rabbani's forces captured several strategic positions from coalition forces in Kabul including Bala Hissar and Maranjan hill.

JULY

On 11 July, the UN Secretary General's personal representative for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, said that General Dostum and the Governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, had suspended air strikes against each other's positions.

A statement issued by the Shura-i-Hamahangi (Hekmatyar led coalition) on 19 July, said that they captured Doshi - 184 kms north of Kabul - along with several strategic positions in the area. However, a military spokesman in Kabul said, on 20 July, that the offensive was repulsed.

AUGUST

The Hezb-i-Islami led Coordination Council (anti-Rabbani coalition) claimed on 30 July, that they had captured the strategically important Khinjan Valley which is considered a gateway to Northern provinces.

Fighting continued some 180 kms north of Kabul near the district center of Doshi, captured by anti-Rabbani forces about two weeks before. A military spokesman of Pro-Rabbani forces told AFP on 11 August, they had recaptured four posts from the opposition forces two days before.

SEPTEMBER

According to a communique released by Hezb-i-Islami on 31 August the Coordination Council decided not to allow Ariana airlines to function after 2 September 1994. It added that, this was because - they had concrete evidence that the airline was being used for military purposes, landing at military airports, transporting counterfeit money, ammunition and military personnel.

Hezb-i-Islami chief, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, in an interview with BBC Pashtu service on 8 September, claimed that his forces had captured whole parts of Logar province after putting down an uprising by supporters of President Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami.

Troops loyal to Afghan President Rabbani, captured a strategic hill (Qawala Hill) in eastern Karte Naw of Kabul on 6 September.

The Hezb-i-Islami led Supreme Coordination Council claimed that its forces captured the strategic Khinjan valley and were within a striking distance of Jabalsiraj, headquarter of Ahmad Shah Masood. A communique issued on 10 September in Peshawar, said that SCCIRA forces had advanced 25 km beyond Khinjan to within three kms of the Salang tunnel. With this spectacular advance, all four highways of the country came under the control of the SCCIRA.

As fighting continued in Kabul, leader of Hezb-i-Islami, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, sent a high-level delegation to Mazar-i-Sharif in an effort to strengthen the alliance with General Dostum.

An Afghan defence ministry source on 21 September said that the Shi-ite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction led by Ali Mazari, had lost more than 100 military posts in intense week long fighting with rivals in southwest Kabul. "We are now digging-in and preparing for our next blow" the source added.

According to reports received from Kabul, on 25 September, a temporary ceasefire called for early 24 September to facilitate mediation between the warring Shi-ite groups was still holding by the afternoon, with only minor violations.

Heavy fighting resumed between the rival Shi-ite factions of Harakat-i-Islami and Hezb-i-Wahdat, in southwest Kabul on 26 September breaking a two-day lull in the battle. The Scud missile base controlled by Harakat came under a heavy attack in which five buildings were set on fire.

OCTOBER

Forces loyal to President Rabbani claimed on 1 October that they pushed a rival Shi-ite faction from the Kabul University area. Meanwhile, fighting was still going on at a former Scud base.

The frontline military sources confirmed on 2 October that the anti-Rabbani coalition force infantry, advanced further against troops of President Rabbani in the southwest of Kabul during a massive artillery battle.

Backed by tanks and an artillery bombardment, a mixed force of infantry loyal to President Rabbani launched an offensive against their rivals in southwest Kabul on 6 October.

The pro-Rabbani infantry forces battled on 10 October with their Shi-ite rivals in the vicinity of Kabul University where heavy artillery fire was traded by both sides.

President Rabbani's jets attacked the positions of Hezb-i-Islami fighters dug-in a strategic hill called Bini Hissar, in east Kabul on 18 October. It was the first jet strike in Kabul in two weeks.

NOVEMBER

Afghan government soldiers began stopping cars and searching for weapons on 2 November in an effort to collect at least a small portion of the guns that have flooded into the capital.

Kandahar City, the capital of Afghanistan's southern province of Kandahar fell to religious students (Afghan Talibs) on 4 November when they overpowered the Afghan commanders Mansoor, Amir Lalai and Ustad Saleem after heavy fighting which had continued for three days.

President Rabbani's troops, supported by air strikes, repulsed a ground attack of the opposition forces in Kabul on 9 November. Government jet fighters dropped bombs and fired rockets at Hekmatyar's troops who were unable to advance in a battle that lasted about four hours.

The spokesman of the Talibans claimed, on 25 November, that three southern Afghan provinces Kandahar, Zabul, and Helmand were now totally under control of the students and Islamic laws were being enforced there. He added that talks were in progress with the Governor of Ghazni province, Qari Baba, and it was expected that he would also surrender to the Talibs.

DECEMBER

The UN team visiting Kabul, on 5 December, brokered a four-day cease-fire between the warring Afghan factions to facilitate safe entry to two food convoys to the areas controlled by President Rabbani and his rival Hekmatyar.

According to the BBC, the popularity of the Talibans is growing fast throughout Afghanistan. They have emerged successful in some major confrontations during the last six weeks. The Talibans have either defeated or made ineffective the large armies of various commanders and brought major areas of southern Afghanistan, including a number of provincial capitals, under their control. However, they are facing a hard time in the rural areas of Ghazni Province where they are struggling to replace the administration of Qari Baba, a close aid of President Rabbani.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

JANUARY

A spokesman of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad said that President Rabbani declared 'Jihad' against the Uzbek militia led by General Dostum, who according to him, conspired against the sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

On 4 January, the UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali called for an immediate cease-fire in Kabul and expressed distress over the renewed hostilities resulting in heavy casualties.

Following a cease-fire appeal by the Government of Pakistan, a 24-hour cease fire between Afghan government troops and the Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (anti- Resident Rabbani alliance) came into effect on 8 January to enable the evacuation of Kabul-based diplomats and injured people from the last seven days of fighting.

Former Afghan King, Zahir Shah, who lives in Rome, urged the Afghans to hold a loya Jirga (grand assembly) to resolve the current crisis.

On 12 January, Pakistan's Government sealed the Pak-Afghan border to those without valid entry documents. The decision was criticized by some Pakistani politicians.

A group of 45 well-known Afghan commanders presented an eight-point formula to bring an end to the fighting in Kabul. The group also discussed peace proposals with the warring sides.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President of Pakistan issued a joint appeal to all Afghan leaders and political parties to end fighting in Kabul.

On 21 January, the UN Secretary General convened an emergency session of the Security Council to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, where fighting continued between warring factions. The UN expected to send a fact finding mission to Kabul to explore possibilities for promotion of peace and conciliation in Afghanistan.

A five-member delegation of Shura-i-Hamahangi met the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 24 January and exchanged views on the political and military situation in.

FEBRUARY

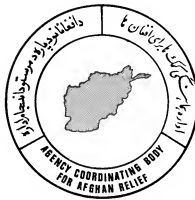
On 1 February, the Afghan Presidential spokesman accused Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, of supporting the anti-government alliance in the ongoing fighting in the Afghan capital. At the same time, Moscow was blamed by the anti-government alliance for supporting the Government.

Commander Maulavi Jalaluddin Haqani who is leading a 56-member peace delegation left Jalalabad for Kabul on 1 February in an attempt to broker peace in the Afghan capital. He finally succeeded to negotiate a 4-day cease-fire on 15 February between the rival factions. However, the cease-fire was not observed despite both sides' agreement.

ACBAR

NEWS SUMMARY ON AFGHANISTAN

1994



AGENCY COORDINATING BODY FOR AFGHAN RELIEF

2 REHMAN BABA ROAD
UNIVERSITY TOWN
PESHAWAR

TEL : (0521) 44392 / 40839

FEBRUARY 1995

I am pleased to make available a summary of the significant news - extracted from The News, Frontier Post, Muslim, and The Nation - related to Afghanistan for 1994.

For easy access, the document has been listed under five headings (by months):

- Aid and Economic Developments
- Military Developments
- Political Developments
- Security matters; and
- Other News

It is hoped that the document will prove useful and be of significant value for NGOs, donors, and other interested persons.

Charles MacFadden
Executive Director
February 1995



CONTENTS

Aid and Economic Developments	1
Military Developments	6
Political Developments	9
Security Matters	21
Other News	28



SELECTED EVENTS OF 1994

January:

The Supreme Coordination Council (anti-Rabbani Coalition) started fighting, on the first day of the new year, in Kabul.

Pakistan sealed Pak-Afghan border to those without valid entry documents.

UN agencies and NGOs established a camp in Sarshahi Jalalabad for the displaced people from Kabul.

First relief convoy of ICRC reached Kabul with 20 MT Medical supplies.

February:

British Government made a grant of Pounds Sterling 250,000 to assist displaced people.

Canada announced contribution of Rs.74 million for the Afghan relief.

March:

A Canadian journalist and his Afghan interpreter were wounded in Kabul.

UN food convoys (6 trucks) taking advantage of the lifting of the road blockade by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar reached Kabul.

Mehmood Mestiri, head of the UN fact-finding mission, arrived in Islamabad to meet Pakistani officials and Afghan leaders.

April:

A relief convoy from Iran (300 tents, 2500 blankets and 1200 bags of flour) left Peshawar for Kabul.

May:

US ambassador to Pakistan, Director USAID, and UNICEF Representative signed agreement to provide US \$ 965,000 to fund immunization program in Afghanistan.

Following the decision of the Coordination Council to allow the passage of relief supplies, ICRC's convoy (10 trucks of food and medicine) left Peshawar for Kabul.

June:

UN decided to reopen its office in Afghanistan. It will be temporarily based in Jalalabad till security improved in Kabul.

July:

UN temporarily closed down its mission in Herat due to air attacks of Dostum planes on the city.

Mehmood Mestiri returned to Islamabad and resumed efforts to end the Afghan crisis.

Mir Wais Jalil, a BBC correspondent in Afghanistan was kidnapped near Kabul. His bullet-ridden body was found in Chilsitoon. He was buried in Peshawar.

August:

UNDP/OPS approved a series of new projects and contribution of US\$24 million for the rehabilitation/reconstruction in Afghanistan.

September:

UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, held meetings with different Afghan groups in Islamabad.

UN Special Mission formed a 14-member contact group comprising prominent Afghans to advise the UN peace mission.

October:

Mehmood Mestiri, flew to Mazar and met General Dostum. He also went to Jalalabad and met President Rabbani, the next day. He then went to Sarobi and met Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The UN mission went to Jabal Siraj and met Ahmad Shah Masood there.

November:

Afghan Taliban (religious students) who recently emerged, took control of Kandahar city and overpowered the provincial Government authorities.

ICRC's convoy carrying 70 tons of medical supplies safely reached Kabul.

UN appealed to the international community for funding of US\$106 million for emergency humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan for the one-year period beginning 1 October 94.

ICRC airlifted 14 tons of emergency supplies to the Government to Bagram and 18 tons to the opposition controlled airport in Logar.

Talibans took full control of Zabul and Helmand Provinces. With this development, Talibans expanded their full control over three southwestern provinces.

UN sponsored vaccination program started in Afghanistan.

Afghan warring factions opened talks in Tehran, sponsored by OIC.

The administration of Nangarhar province closed down all UNDCP projects there.

December:

To mark the International Day of Disabled on 3 December, ACBAR Disability Taskforce initiated a one day "Exhibition By and For Afghan Disabled" in Peshawar.

The UN visiting team in Kabul, brokered a 4-day cease-fire between the warring factions in Kabul to facilitate entry of food convoys.

UN aid convoy (50 trucks) carrying food and emergency supplies reached Kabul.

UN established a new refugee camp in Hada, Nangarhar for displaced people.